



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
INFORMATION SERVICE

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FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

For Immediate Release

ALASKA FUR SEAL SKINS ADVANCE SHARPLY AT FALL AUCTION

United States Government-owned Alaska fur seal skins averaged a 31.6 per cent advance in price at the semiannual auction held in St. Louis on October 13, the Fish and Wildlife Service has reported to Acting Secretary of the Interior Vernon D. Northrop.

The market was strong and bidding was highly competitive for this high-fashion fur. Government receipts from the 26,521 fur seal skins offered at auction reached \$2,784,718, an increase of \$994,037 over the spring auction held on April 7.

The grand average for all fur seal skins at the October sale was \$105, an increase of \$23.73 over the April grand average of \$81.27.

Black skins, of which there were 6,278 offered, averaged \$122.04, a jump of 54.6 per cent over the April sale price of \$78.30. The dyed "Matara" (brown) skins sold for an average of \$109.71, an advance of 28.7 per cent. "Safari" brown (a lighter brown) skins advanced 7.73 per cent to \$69.14. Blue fox pelts averaged \$3.43, a decline of 41.4 per cent.

In addition to the United States-owned skins, the Fouke Fur Company sold 4,474 Cape of Good Hope fur seal skins for the Government of the Union of South Africa. These skins averaged \$34.54, an advance of 40.3 per cent.

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